

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed March 8, 2007, Claims 1, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,114,554 issued to Voss et al. (“*Voss*”), in combination with U.S. Patent Nos. 6,610,187, issued to Nonomura et al. (“*Nonomura*”) and 3,496,083, issued to Kawai et al. (“*Kawai*”); Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Voss* in combination with *Nonomura* and *Kawai* as applied to Claims 1, 3, and 8, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,083,376 issued to Akram et al. (“*Akram*”); and, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Voss* in combination with *Nonomura* and *Kawai* as applied to Claims 1, 3, and 8, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,879,013 issued to Austin (“*Austin*”).

By this reply, Applicant traverses the rejection of the claims; and no claims have been amended, canceled, or added. As such, Claims 1 and 3-8 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections Under § 103(a)

Although the combination of cited references relied upon to reject Claim 1 admittedly fail to disclose anodes having curved surfaces, the Office Action alleges that such structure is obvious absent persuasive evidence that the anode’s curved surface is significant. See Office Action mailed March 8, 2007, page 3, lines 4-6.

As described in the specification of present application on page 3, lines 5 to 16, curved anodes lead to uniform flux profiles, such that local variations in coating current density are largely avoided. Utilization of curved anodes has led to several advantages, namely a more consistent layer thickness, and an increased coating speed. Furthermore, Applicant has discovered that additional costs in manufacturing relating to preparing cured anodes are effectively compensated by the increased coating speed. And the improvement with respect to layer thickness consistency results in increased layer quality—which is essential especially for the outermost layer of a car body that is directly visible to the customer.

Applicant’s invention requires—at least—an anode having a curved surface. Because the cited prior art, alone or in combination, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least a curved anode surface, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1—as well as all claims ultimately depending thereon, i.e., Claims 3-8—is in condition for allowance and request the rejections to the pending claims be withdrawn.

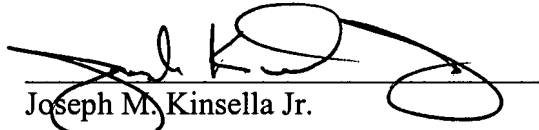
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be removed and all pending claims be passed to issue.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are required, however if any fees are required, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

Respectfully Submitted,

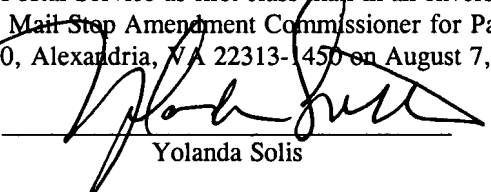
Dated: August 7, 2007



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 7, 2007.



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